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Evangelical Visitor - March/April 1999 MCC Annual Report

Glen A. Pierce

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PIEROT



MICKI



NELSON



TAHREER



ANTHONY



WENDY



YERI

MCC CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO A

Feast *of* Friends

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
1998 ANNUAL REPORT



TATYANA



LYNN



LYUDA



JOEL



GLADYS



DEAN



RON



KARLA



AKBAL



LYNNE



JOHNNY



TEENA



GIA



*"Friend, lend me three loaves of bread;
for a friend of mine has arrived,
and I have nothing to set before him."
Luke 11:5-6*

LAURIE

NANG

JACKIE

CAROLYN



Feast of Friends

The words of a hymn composed after Hurricane Mitch devastated Central America summarize the prayer of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in 1998: *O Spirit, send your comfort and give us faith that dares. For when our neighbors suffer, our lives are bound with theirs.*

Hundreds of workers, thousands of volunteers and many more supporters in Mennonite and Brethren in Christ

churches and beyond enabled MCC to continue to bind our lives with others around the world "In the Name of Christ." Indeed it is a feast of friends.

The devastation wrought by natural disasters took center stage in the last months of 1998. Late summer flood waters covered almost two-thirds of Bangladesh displacing millions of people. In early fall Hurricane Georges wreaked havoc on the Caribbean. And in late October Hurricane Mitch descended on

Central America, the worst storm in at least a century.

The outpouring of compassion for the victims of Hurricane Mitch was unparalleled in MCC history. Church and community groups in North America joined counterparts in Central America to offer assistance to those in need. Many sacrificed: a retired couple preparing for a vacation in Florida decided instead to offer the holiday money for Mitch survivors; another family, having scrimped for many months to purchase a computer, instead invested in the welfare of their suffering neighbors.

Armed conflicts provided the context for many programs. MCC personnel were temporarily evacuated from Congo, Lesotho and Indonesia. Relief supplies, development assignments and peace-building efforts were located in the former Yugoslavia, in Russia, the Ukraine and Sudan.

New programs were launched. The first MCC worker served in Iraq. A student exchange program was initiated with an Education and Research Institute in Iran. A five-year poverty alleviation program was negotiated with the



Ron Mathies visits with Lyuda Zolotarev, a local MCC worker, in Vladikavkaz, Russia. Photo by Steve Hochstetler-Shirk.

Canadian International Development Agency and the Chinese government, through Chinese partner agency Amity Foundation.

Strong Ten Thousand Villages sales of crafts offered the equivalent of 12,500 full-time jobs to third-world artisans, up 1,000 from 1997. Retail value of the sales totaled \$22.5 million Cdn./\$15 million U.S. Four new Villages-owned retail stores opened in 1998: two in Canada and two in the United States. New wholesale stores opened as well. Volunteers and staff in shops across North America partnered with overseas artisans in a rich exchange of culture and employment.

MCC Canada's Victims' Voice, a program based on a healing, non-retributive model of justice, began *Pathways*, a newsletter featuring stories of families touched by murder. MCC Canada affirmed its commitment to program in Eastern Canada, providing about \$400,000 Cdn./\$260,000 U.S. for economic and community development, conflict resolution, aboriginal justice issues, prisoner visitation and relationship building with local churches. MCC Canada is helping fund a \$450,000 Cdn./\$300,000 U.S. dairy co-operative in the Mennonite colonies in Mexico, with the Mennonite Foundation of Canada and the Mennonite Credit Union in Cuauhtemoc, Mexico.

MCC U.S. provided workers for low-cost housing programs in Kentucky and for the Association of Retarded Citizens and the Migrant Farmworkers Justice Project in Florida. Church Community workers partnered with constituent churches. The racism drama team toured the East Coast and Great Lakes regions. Anti-racism training was conducted with nine institutions.

The first-ever Southern California Relief Sale, held in Upland, Calif., contributed more than \$77,000 Cdn./\$50,000 U.S. for MCC programs. A new Central States office and material resource center was opened in North Newton, Kan., providing opportunities for a wide assortment of MCC activities.

Letters from North American children to children in Iraq echoed the prayer of the opening lines. One said "God loves you and God loves me." A fitting summary for MCC work.

■ Ronald J.R. Mathies, MCC Executive Director

OUR MISSION

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is the relief, service, community development and peace agency of Mennonite and Brethren in Christ churches in Canada and the United States.

MCC shares God's love through committed women and men who serve others suffering from poverty, conflict, oppression and natural disaster.

MCC introduces the congregations who support us to the churches and communities where we work, so that all may grow and be transformed.

MCC strives for peace, justice and dignity for all people by sharing our experiences, resources and faith in Jesus Christ.

Friends Far *and* Near

Meet the people we serve. They provide community, where we cross cultural boundaries, share and learn skills, and find love and understanding. They help us in our life-giving transformation.

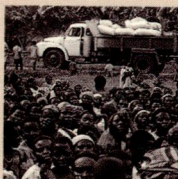


Akbal, 53, a widow; her daughter Tahreer, 25; granddaughter, Marwah, 5; and three other family members moved to Basra, Iraq, in 1985, when their home was bombed. Now they stay in a schoolroom and live off the income of a son who finds odd jobs. Basra, too, has been bombed during the Iran-Iraq and Persian Gulf Wars. Most damage is repaired, but the economy is in shambles and Basra residents seem tired and discouraged. Akbal said: "We heard the bombs from the Persian Gulf War, but we weren't afraid because our hearts were already dead." MCC called for an end to sanctions against Iraq and sent food, school kits and medicines. *Photo by Pearl Sensenig.*

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR YEAR

JANUARY

MCC in Brazil begins a new conflict resolution program.

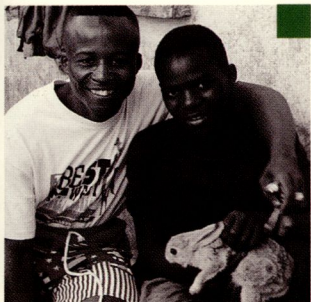


FEBRUARY

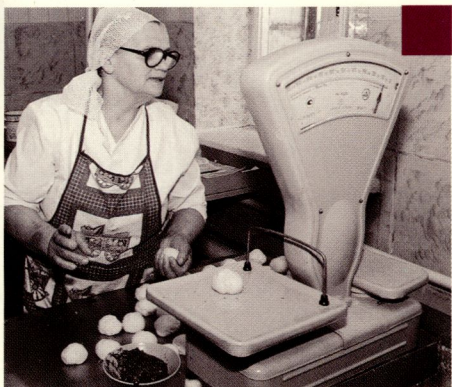
Famine and the Lord's Resistance Army strike again in north Uganda. Many people there sleep in fields, rather than their homes, to escape night-time attacks. MCC gives church leaders there funds to buy food for 50,000 people.

MARCH

Social Housing Society breaks ground in Prince George, B.C., for 30 units of family rental housing developed with the Mennonite church there.



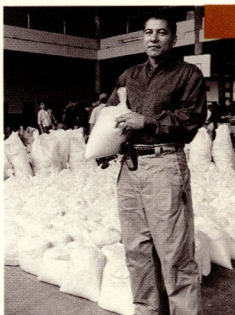
Johnny Namegabe with Pierot, holding a rabbit. MCC helped start a rabbit-raising project at a street children's center in Bukavu, Congo, as a way to finance the center. The project has a surprise benefit: caring for the rabbits brings emotional healing to the children. "Healing can be found in a furry rabbit and the unconditional out-stretched hand of someone like Johnny," observes Krista Rigalo. *Photo by Krista Rigalo.*



Tatyana Ivanovna bakes bread at the Good Shepherd Shelter for homeless children in Makeevka, Ukraine. Two local church members opened the shelter in 1997. MCC workers Cameron and Corrina Kroeker serve there, "creating a family" for the children. *Photo by Mark Beach.*



Jackie Joseph keeps the food pantry in Whitesburg, Ky., alive. She lines up volunteers, orders groceries, stocks shelves, chairs board meetings, keeps the books, plans the annual volunteer appreciation banquet. "She serves quietly with little recognition. I'm amazed and inspired," writes Andrea Schrock Wenger. *Photo by Delbert Wenger.*



Nelson Garcia, director of the Honduran Mennonite Social Action Commission, holds some of the more than 100 tons of rice, corn and beans that Belizean Mennonites sent to Honduras for Hurricane Mitch survivors. *Photo by Tony Siemens.*

MCC Canada helps fund a dairy cooperative in the Mennonite colonies in Mexico. The co-op will increase output and improve sanitation, nutrition and disease control.

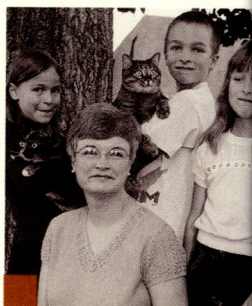


Indonesian Mennonite Cultural Team tours Kansas, South Dakota, Manitoba, Virginia and Pennsylvania, performing traditional dances and songs. "We are poor in dollars, but rich in other things," says Andreas Christanday.

Local church members and MCC personnel who work with aboriginal people across Canada and in North Dakota meet at Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump interpretive center in Alberta for a time to learn from local elders and one another.



Nang Oolo air-layers a fruit tree on his farm. When the branch he is cutting roots, he will plant it and have another fruit tree. In northern Laos MCC trains farmers to grow fruit trees such as plum, mango and papaya. Many farmers plant dry rice on the hillsides, but the soil is quickly depleted. Every few years farmers must move to new land. Planting fruit trees prevents erosion and provides nutrients to families with barely enough to eat. Mr. Oolo has been particularly successful. Fruit trees are now his main source of income. *Photo by Christopher Kennel.*



Lynne Jarvis's joy belies the pain caused by years of abuse by her ex-husband. With him now in jail, she finds strong support from MCC Alberta workers. In turn, as she and her children, Brittany, Clinton and Chelsea, have begun healing, they willingly share their time and limited resources with others. *Photo by Bruce Hildebrand.*

The Greencastle (Pa.) House Against Hunger Committee builds their 10th house. It sells for \$243,000 Cdn./\$158,500 U.S., bringing the total amount they raised for MCC to more than \$1.5 million Cdn./\$1 million U.S.

A new MCC used furniture store opens in MacGregor, Man. In 1998 the 88 thrift shops in Canada and the United States raised \$7 million Cdn./\$4.6 million U.S. for MCC's international work.



Famine hits south Sudan. Some 2.4 million people are at risk of starvation. Sudanese Christians distribute 500 metric tons of corn and beans purchased in Africa with MCC funds. MCC also sends clothing, soap and canned beef.



Anthony Matthew Mass dries the Ten Thousand Villages logo on a silk-screened banner. Anthony is part of LEMERI Crafts, a group of Sudanese refugees in Egypt. They went to Cairo to study, but due to violence cannot return home. To earn a living, they silkscreen banners that Ten Thousand Villages sells. *Photo by Mark Beach.*



Gladys Dlamini, left, often finds

her lips moving as she sweeps the floor or washes clothing. She's not talking to herself but to God, the one in whom she places her trust. Among those included in her prayers are MCC workers. "One is a pastor, so I remember his work. Another sent me a special prayer request," Gladys said. She also prays for Carolyn Wagner, right, MCC worker in her town, Bulembu, Swaziland. *Photo by Tony Siemens.*



Yeri is in his eighth grade English class at the Catholic School in Santiago de Chiquitos, Bolivia, where Jon Wilson, of Clovis, Calif., teaches. Jon is part of SALT, an MCC program for young adults interested in living, learning and working overseas for a year. *Photo by Evan Roth.*

MCC moves its office in the former Soviet Union from Moscow to Zaporozhye, Ukraine, the place where the first MCC soup kitchen was set up in 1922.

MCC joins a Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) response to famine in North Korea. The 16-metric ton shipment of wheat is the largest ever for CFGB. MCC also sends corn and health and school supplies.

Welcoming the newcomer



MCC U.S. starts an Immigration Education program.

Friends *in the* Field

Meet the people who serve with MCC. They share hope in the communities where they live. They hunger for righteousness, they have mercy, they walk with God and seek peace.



Wendy Colindres poses for a photo with Karla Cruz, 7, at a park near the United Revival Mennonite Church in New York City. Karla attended the Vacation Bible School that Wendy helped organize. Wendy was one of 66 participants in the 1998 MCC U.S. Summer Service program. In addition to planning Vacation Bible School activities for neighborhood children, she translated for Spanish speaking church members, served heaping plates of rice and beans to homeless people and even cleaned the church building. The Summer Service Program, which started in 1982, enables youth of diverse ethnic backgrounds to work in their home communities for 10 weeks. *Photo by Pearl Sensenig.*

Mennonite Conciliation Service holds a training institute in Denver, Colo. At the week-long institute, church leaders and others learn skills for handling conflicts that occur in their settings.

Wanda Kraybill goes to Baghdad, the first MCC worker to serve in Iraq.



Ten Thousand Villages opens a store in New Haven, Conn., near Yale University. In the next six months, in part due to tireless efforts by Liz Rider, the store sold more than \$154,000 Cdn. \$100,000 U.S. worth of handicrafts.

■ What we did in 1998

Vocation of MCC service workers on 11/30/98

Community services 132

Field administration 102

Education 62

North American education 62

Administration/support services 40

Peace 33

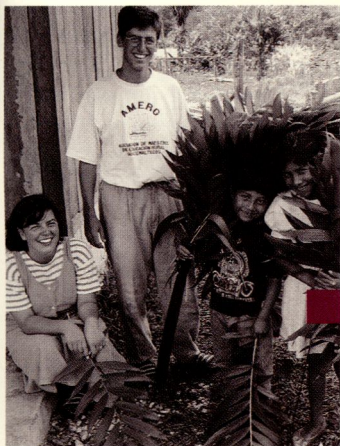
Income generation 29

Ten Thousand Villages 28

Agriculture/Food securities 28

Health 23

Emergency assistance 17



Laurie and Lynn Longenecker of Lancaster, Pa., went to La Esmeralda, Guatemala, in 1997. Their assignment was "accompaniment," a term they admit at first puzzled them. Yet, in 1998 they defined the concept, living side by side with neighbors, working in health and education, offering their talents and hearts. *Photo by John Spidaliere.*



Teena Wagner helps Majabula stretch his legs. Teena served as physical therapist at St. Joseph's Mission in Mzimpofo, Swaziland. Disabled children were once hidden away at home. At the mission—where MCC workers have served since 1978—Swazis have seen people with disabilities learn academic subjects and job skills. *Photo by Tony Siemens.*



Dean Denner and Cia Verschelden, with their children, John, Emma and Abe, served in Little Buffalo, a Lubicon Cree community in Alberta, a community in pain. Logging and oil companies cut their trees and drill wells, severely reducing the Lubicon's traditional sources of food and income. The federal and provincial governments "earn" royalties from these resources, while delaying the process of establishing the community's right to the land. *Photo by Neil Funk-Unrau.*

9

AUGUST

First MCC benefit bike ride in Colorado takes place at the Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp.



57 youth arrive in Canada and the United States as part of the International Visitor Exchange Program, a one-year exchange and vocational training program begun in 1950.

The Canadian government approves funding for a program for 14 youth interested in starting their own businesses, through the MCC Employment Development program in Calgary.

■ Where we were in 1998

At year-end MCC had 841 workers in 58 countries. (*In 1997, 867 workers were in 54 countries.*) The number of workers dropped, in part due to not finding workers for 123 positions. In some places, we hired local people to do the work. The unfilled positions and the availability of local people prompt the question of whether we should rely on North American volunteers or national staff such as Ugandans and Bolivians to carry out our mission, a question we will examine in 1999.

Overseas service workers

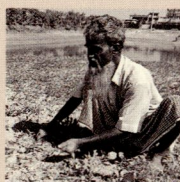
28	Bolivia	
16		
14	Brazil	
13	Guatemala	Jamaica
12		Burkina Faso
11	Haiti	
10	Mexico	
9		Kenya
8		Mozambique Swaziland
7	El Salvador	Honduras Paraguay
6	Nicaragua	Zambia
5		Chad Congo Nigeria Tanzania
4		Botswana Sudan
3		South Africa
2	Peru	Costa Rica*
1	Cuba*	Ethiopia Lesotho Somalia Uganda Zimbabwe
		Burundi
	Latin America	121 ↑
		Africa 93 ↓

10

↑ increase from 1997 ↓ decrease from 1997 * new location for workers

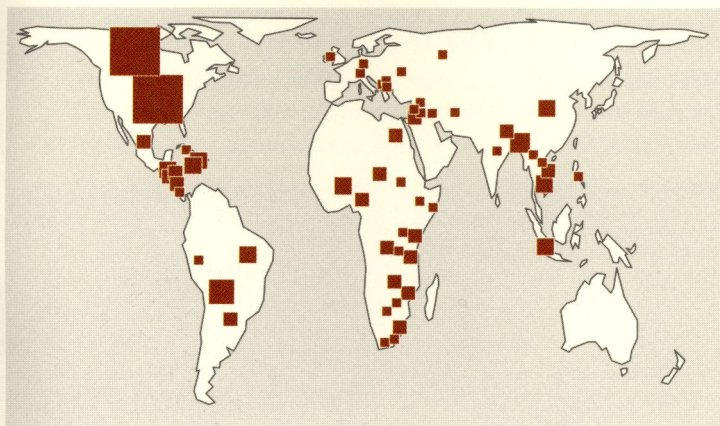
SEPTEMBER

MCC gives a grant to People for Peace, a Kenyan agency that provided emergency trauma counseling to survivors of the U.S. Embassy bombing in Kenya.



Floods cover 70 percent of Bangladesh. 40 million people are affected. MCC helps rebuild and repair homes and buy seeds so farmers can promptly replant their fields. MCC also gives wheat for food-for-work projects.

An MCC U.S. delegation visits Cuba to learn about the situation there and prepare for advocacy.



North American service workers

Canada 103↓
United States 113↓

North American salaried staff

Canada 110↓
United States 175↑

Bangladesh

China
Indonesia
Cambodia

Egypt 10

West Bank 9

Nepal Vietnam 8

Philippines 7

Lebanon 6

Burma 5

India Iran 4

Laos 3

Jordan Syria 2

Iraq* 1

Ukraine 5

Bosnia* Switzerland 4

Croatia Germany Russia 3

Northern Ireland* Serbia 2

Europe 19↓

Asia 80↓

Middle East 27↑

Europe 19↓

The Fraser Valley Relief Sale in British Columbia holds its first Christian rock concert that some 3,000 youth attend. In 1998, 41 relief sales in Canada and the United States raised nearly \$6.1 million Cdn./\$4 million U.S., a record high.

"Ask-a-vet" section is added to MCC's website, giving youth and others a chance to discuss militarism or conscientious objection with others via the Internet.



With various partners, MCC embarks on a five-year program to raise the standard of living in two provinces in China. Likely projects include basic health, agriculture, irrigation and small business development.

Friends *from* Home

Meet the people who support MCC. They contribute mercy, justice and support for the journey. Feeding the hungry and befriending a newcomer is possible only because of their service.



Micki Warkentin, of Winnipeg, Man., prices shesham wood mirrors from India in the Ten Thousand Villages warehouse in Akron, Pa. She and her husband Herb spent four months in Akron. "We believe that not only should we give of our money, but of our time," says Micki. "We are glad we can help MCC by giving in this way." Each year, in both Akron, Pa., and New Hamburg, Ont., warehouses, thousands of volunteers price, pull orders and pack them for shipment throughout North America where thousands more volunteers operate stores selling fairly traded handicrafts from Ten Thousand Villages. *Photo by Tony Siemens.*

12

NOVEMBER

Global Gathering Place, a drop-in centre for newcomers in Saskatchewan, opens. A month later, New York City Mennonite churches, with MCC help, open an immigration office in Brooklyn.

MCC finalizes plans for 15 relief shipments to Russia and Ukraine, in response to hardships in certain areas due to potato crop failures, drought, harsh temperatures and a currency that continues to lose its value.



Bright peace messages on the sides of city buses start moving through the streets of Durban, South Africa. These ads are part of a "Peace to the City" campaign MCC supports.

■ Gifts we shared in 1998

With your help, MCC supplied the following to people in 39 countries.

Food valued at \$8.9 million Cdn./\$5.8 million U.S.

Includes 770 metric tons of maize to Zambia; 1,440 tons of wheat to Afghanistan

Clothes and bedding valued at \$2.8 million Cdn./\$1.8 million U.S.

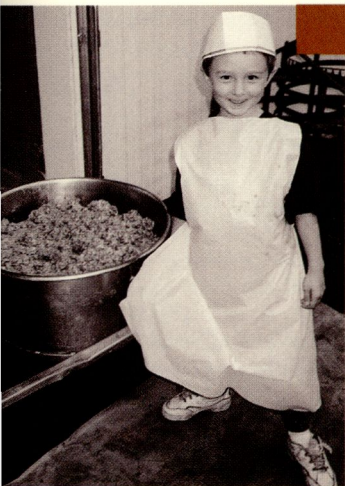
Includes 12,540 blankets and 4,000 sheets to Bangladesh

Medical supplies valued at \$1.4 million Cdn./\$939,000 U.S.

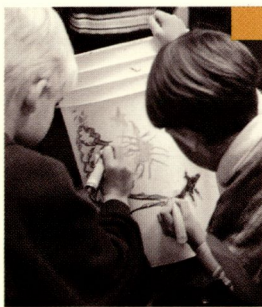
Includes 11,287 health kits to the Ukraine

School supplies valued at \$658,000 Cdn./\$428,000 U.S.

Includes 13,900 school kits to Iraq



Joel Rempel-Burkholder, 5, lent a hand this fall when the MCC meat canner came to North Newton, Kan. In 1998 constituents canned 335,048 cans of meat for MCC to share with hungry people. Joel and his parents, Byron and Melita Rempel-Burkholder, attend New Creation Fellowship in Newton. *Photo by Ron Braun.*



Third grade children at Douglas Mennonite Church in Winnipeg, Man., decorate a hurricane relief kit. At year end churches, schools, families and individuals in Canada and the United States had packed some 50,000 hurricane relief kits for survivors of Hurricane Mitch in Honduras and Nicaragua. *Photo by Joanie Enns.*



Youth of Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold, Ohio, spent 28 hours without food. While fasting, they had Bible study, served meals at a shelter and collected food for the local pantry. They slept in a building that was under construction. "We had a great experience" and raised \$12,500 for MCC, wrote Phil Bontrager. *Photo by Lynette Bontrager.*

13

Hurricane Mitch strikes. Some 3.7 million people in Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador lose loved ones, homes and livelihoods. Constituents give more than \$6.2 million Cdn./\$4 million U.S. for rehabilitation.



Frank Dutcher from the Maple Grove Conservative Mennonite Church, in Hartville, Ohio, finishes his 129th comforter for MCC.

Missile attacks on Iraq prompt calls for an end to violence and economic sanctions on Iraq, where unemployment is 65 percent. With the Middle East Council of Churches, MCC sends 1,000 metric tons each of beans and wheat flour.

■ Your dollars at work in 1998

Estimated income received by all MCC offices—local, national and binational—totaled \$80.9 million Cdn./\$54.1 million U.S., a 10.8 percent increase from 1997. There was strong growth in cash gifts, bequests and income from MCC shops. Income from our church constituency accounted for 56.2 percent of the total.

Estimated expenses for all MCC offices totaled \$74.8 million Cdn./\$50.1 million U.S., a 9.2 percent increase from 1997. Of total expenses, 11.5 percent went for administration and fundraising. The amount spent for overseas programs grew 13.7 percent. Expenditures on Canadian and U.S. programs increased slightly.

Ten Thousand Villages sales increased by 14.8 percent while growth in operating expenses was held to 9.5 percent.

This consolidated data summarizes the activity of 12 MCC entities as reported in seven financial statements in Canada and the United States. Audited financial statements are available from any MCC office.




Overseas program expenses (*cash and material resources*)


Thousands of dollars (U.S.)		
1,500	India	
1,400	Bangladesh	
1,300	North Korea	
1,200		
1,100		
1,000		Sudan
900	Afghanistan	
800		
700		
600	China	Burkina Faso
500		Zambia
400		Chad Kenya
	Cambodia Indonesia	
300		Ethiopia
	Iraq Vietnam	Angola
200	Laos Nepal	Congo Mozambique Uganda
150	Philippines	Burundi/Rwanda Nigeria South Africa
100	Iran	Somalia Tanzania Zimbabwe
50	Burma	Botswana Lesotho Swaziland
	■ Asia	■ Africa
	\$7,958,000 ↑	\$5,574,000 ↓

Income	U.S. dollars
Cash gifts	\$16,432,000 ↑
Canadian contributors	5,799,000
U.S. contributors	10,524,000
Other contributors	109,000
Gifts-in-kind	5,272,000 ↑
Grants	9,632,000 ↓
Non-governmental	971,000
Governmental	8,661,000
Shops, relief sales, houses	8,717,000 ↑
Other income	3,651,000 ↓
Ten Thousand Villages sales (28¢ of each retail sales dollar goes to artisans)	10,446,000 ↑
Total income received	\$54,150,000 ↑

Expenses	U.S. dollars
Overseas program	\$24,270,000 ↑
Country program (<i>see chart below for detail</i>)	22,933,000
Other overseas program	1,337,000
North American program	9,786,000 ↑
Canada program	6,973,000
Community Ministries	5,987,000
Peace and Justice Ministries	578,000
Material resources collection	408,000
United States program	2,813,000
Community Ministries	1,460,000
Peace and Justice Ministries	920,000
Material resources collection	433,000
Support and administration	4,839,000 ↓
Fundraising	913,000 =
Ten Thousand Villages operating expenses	10,266,000 ↑
Total expenses disbursed	\$50,074,000 ↑


↑ increase from 1997 ↓ decrease from 1997 = virtually unchanged from 1997

	Thousands of dollars (U.S.)
Nicaragua	900
Ukraine	
Bolivia	800
Serbia	700
Haiti	600
Mexico	500
Russia	
West Bank	400
Guatemala	
Brazil	300
Honduras Jamaica	
Lebanon	
El Salvador	200
Switzerland	
Paraguay	150
Albania	
Colombia Dominican Rep.	100
Syria	
Argentina	50
Croatia N. Ireland Germany	
 Latin America	\$5,465,000 ↑
 Europe/Fmr Soviet Union	\$2,657,000 ↓
 Middle East	\$1,279,000 ↑




Five *fabulous* ways

TO FEAST WITH MCC AND FRIENDS



- 1. Visit a Village.** Shop for international handicrafts at Ten Thousand Villages where every purchase provides vital income for unemployed or underemployed workers worldwide. To find a store near you, phone (717) 859-8100 in the United States or (519) 662-1879 in Canada.
- 2. Check out a video.** See how people in different countries live, work and play from a child's perspective in our Child's View Series. For these and other great videos contact your nearest MCC office listed below.
- 3. Give a charitable contribution** to MCC to support any project highlighted in this annual report. Send a contribution to your nearest MCC office listed below.
- 4. Volunteer!** We have exciting opportunities overseas and at home. To find out more, contact your nearest MCC office listed below.
- 5. Make a dream come true.** Sponsor an individual, family or community overseas for only \$22 Cdn./\$17 U.S. per month. Your money can help families send their children to school, buy food and clothing. Contact the MCC Global Family Program in Akron or Winnipeg listed below.



EDITOR Charmayne Denlinger Brubaker
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**Mennonite
Central
Committee**

Mennonite Central Committee and MCC U.S.

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MCC Central States

121 East 30th Street, Box 235, North Newton, KS 67117
(316) 283-2720

MCC East Coast

21 South 12th Street, PO Box 500, Akron, PA 17501
(717) 859-3889

MCC Great Lakes

13363 Jericho Road, Box 82, Kidron, OH 44636
(330) 857-7721

West Coast MCC

1010 G Street, Reedley, CA 93654
(559) 638-6911

MCC Web site

www.mennonitecc.ca/mcc/

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MCC Saskatchewan

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